

the world. I salute him and my best wishes go out to his family and all the troops fighting to ensure freedom and democracy.

REMARKS FOR SERGEANT WILLIAM E. HALL, AWARD OF THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 1, 2004

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, on February 3, 1953, the Headquarters of the 40th Infantry Division declared that Sergeant William E. Hall (US54024606, Infantry, United States Army, 224th Infantry Regiment) distinguished himself by heroic achievement near Kumhwa, Korea, on the 16th of June and 17th of June 1952. As Sergeant Hall's platoon advanced up an enemy-held hill, the enemy who was waiting in ambush, let loose with a murderous attack. Many casualties were sustained, including Sergeant Hall, who suffered painful wounds. With complete and utter disregard for his personal safety, Sergeant Hall fully exposed himself to enemy fire in order to rally and encourage his men. All radio communications had been knocked out by enemy fire, but Sergeant Hall courageously remained exposed to enemy small arms, automatic weapons, and mortar fire in order to maintain communications by voice and call for reinforcements. The courage, outstanding devotion to duty, and determination displayed by Sergeant Hall under extremely hazardous conditions were directly responsible for maintaining vital communications and resulted in the arrival of needed reinforcements. Sergeant Hall's outstanding courage while risking his life was inspiring to his men and reflects great credit upon himself and the United States Army. Sergeant Hall entered the Federal service from Texas.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JEFF FLAKE

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 1, 2004

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, I respectfully request the opportunity to record my position on rollcall votes 177, 178, and 179. I was regrettably absent from the chamber on May 17 during rollcall votes 177, 178, and 179. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall 177, "yea" on rollcall 178, and "yea" on rollcall five.

CONGRATULATIONS, ANTHONY F. HEISLER

HON. JOSEPH M. HOEFFEL

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 1, 2004

Mr. HOEFFEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Anthony F. Heisler of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on his commissioning as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army.

Lt. Heisler is a recent graduate of the George Washington University where he re-

ceived a dual Bachelor of the Arts in German Languages and Literature and in History. A resident of Northeast Philadelphia, Lt. Heisler had always aspired to join the Army, and it is his work in college as a cadet in the Army Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) of Georgetown University of which he is most proud.

In his capacity as a cadet, Lt. Heisler was responsible for the oversight of over 80 Army cadets. For his service, Lt. Heisler has won numerous awards, including the Lieutenant Harry W. Apraker, Jr. award, which is given to the cadet who contributes the most to the mission accomplishment of the Georgetown University ROTC program. Upon his commissioning, Lt. Heisler has been assigned to the Field Artillery branch of the Army.

I am eternally grateful to Lt. Heisler for his service to the United States, and I wish him continued success as he begins his career in the United States Army.

FALLEN HEROES

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2004

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, in the history of our great Nation the cause of freedom has not come easily, but it has come to those who have the will to attain for themselves and for their countrymen. Our Nation has been blessed to have great leaders and visionaries who crafted the Constitution on a new independent Nation. Later, similar strength was needed to eliminate the scourge of slavery. Today, we continue the struggle to make sure that all men and women can taste the sweet nectar of freedom. While we rightfully praise and celebrate the great leaders and visionaries who created and shaped this Nation, let us never forget that even their great work would have fallen short had it not been for the millions of soldiers willing to surrender their life to give the cause of freedom to others.

It was Edmund Burke who once aptly stated: "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing." The birth of our Nation itself was due to good men who refused to submit to an unjust rule. Time after time, in battle after battle American men and women have not fled from mortal danger, no instead they have rushed towards it. Our brave soldiers built this Nation, first with independence, then with the righteousness of eliminating slavery, and finally in the last century they built this Nation in the eyes of the world, not only as a superpower, but as a Nation that values humanity and kindness over the tyranny of others. It has been said that the generation that came back from fighting World War II was in fact the 'greatest generation' and I would be hard pressed to disagree. Our brave soldiers went to Europe and the Far East to save massacred peoples; they had no choice but victory. Even now, we look back in pain and imagine the horror that could have been had they not been successful. They came back from this war to end all wars and raised a new generation of Americans. They created the greatest middle-class ever seen in the history of the world. Their domestic suc-

cess ensured a great future for our Nation, their success abroad ensured life and liberty for millions around the world.

I see this same courage and strength in the eyes of our current generation of soldiers. They bear the burden of a new world, in which the greatest threats against our life and freedom are often unseen. They also bear the hope of a Nation and a world that clings to the hope of peace and stability. It was the great statesman Adlai Stevenson who said: "Patriotism is not a short and frenzied outburst of emotion but the tranquil and steady dedication of a lifetime." It is clear that the torch has been passed from the 'greatest generation' to a new generation of men and women willing to dedicate their lives to protecting ours. Our Nation is truly blessed in so many ways, but our soldiers continue to be the greatest protectors of our blessings.

Perhaps the greatest literary reminder we have of the sacrifice our soldiers make in battle is the poem In Flanders Field written by Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, MD of the Canadian Army:

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place, and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from falling hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

This poem describes the feelings of Lieutenant Colonel McCrae after the battle of Ypres in 1915. Our soldiers go to war knowing that they may not come back; they go to war knowing their comrades may not come back with them, and yet they do not relent. The courage of our Armed Forces can not be questioned, their dedication can not be taken lightly; truly their sacrifice must be honored dearly.

During this Moment of Silence I want to acknowledge the brave soldiers from my home city of Houston who died fighting for our nation in Iraq and Afghanistan:

Sp. Adolfo C. Carballo, 20, Houston, Texas, Died: April 10, 2004, Baghdad, Iraq; Pfc. Analaura Esparza Gutierrez, 21, Houston, Texas, Died: October 1, 2003, Tikrit, Iraq; Sp. John P. Johnson, 24, Houston, Texas, Died: October 22, 2003, Baghdad, Iraq; Sp. Scott Q. Larson, 22, Houston, Texas, Died: April 5, 2004, Baghdad, Iraq; Sgt. Keelan L. Moss, 23, Houston, Texas, Died: November 2, 2003, Al Fallujah, Iraq; Pfc. Armando Soriano, 20, Houston, Texas, Died: February 1, 2004, Haditha, Iraq; Cpl. Tomas Sotelo Jr., 20, Houston, Texas, Died: June 27, 2003, Baghdad, Iraq; Staff Sgt. Brian T. Craig, 27, Houston, Texas, Died: April 15, 2002, Afghanistan.

The names of those brave soldiers and all soldiers who have died fighting for our nation will always be synonymous with the cause of freedom. It takes that rare individual, who in fact does not see themselves as an individual, but as a piece of a greater mission. I hope and pray for the safe return of our soldiers fighting abroad, I cherish and honor our veterans who served before. Let us take this Memorial Day to heart, for everything we love and hold dear in this great nation of ours was